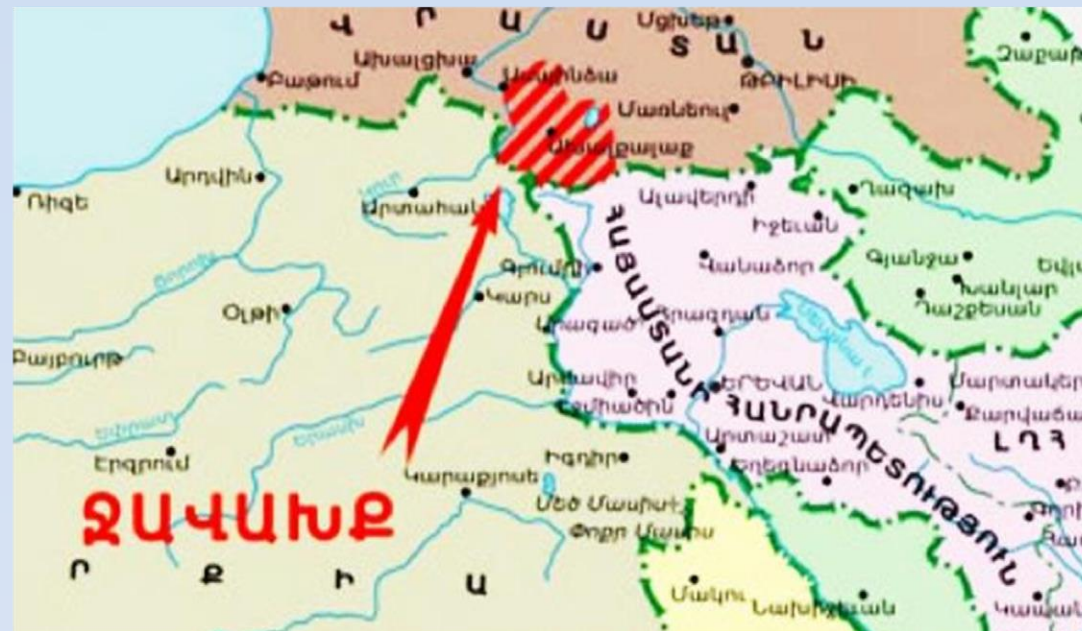


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The Question of Javakhk



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Preface

Gugark is the thirteenth province of Great Armenia. Greek historians refer to Gogarene. It was bordered by Utik in the east, Ayrarat in the south, Tayk in the west, and Virk in the north. In the 8th century BC Gugark was included in Araratian Van kingdom, in 4-2nd century as a part of the Armenian Yervanduni state. Gugark, during the Artashesian and Arshakuni kingdoms, was one of the four border provinces of Great Armenia. In 387, with the division of Greater Armenia between Byzantium and Iran, Gugark, with the exception of Tashir province, was joined to Virk. Dzoropor, Koghbopor, Dsobopor, Tashir, Treghk, Kangark, Ardahan, Upper Javakhk and Kaghark cantons were part of Gugark.

Javakhk is an Armenian and Georgian historical region, a province, currently an Armenian-inhabited territory covering the territories of two marzes in Georgia. As a separate territory, it appeared in different periods as a part of the Armenian kingdoms and principalities, in separate periods it was included in the Georgian kingdom, which had the origin of the Armenian Bagratunis and was unfairly part of the Georgian state. Currently, the region is part of Georgia and unites two Georgian marzes: Samtskhe-Javakhk as a whole and part of Kvemo-Kartli.

Akhalkalak is located in Georgia, the regional center of the Samtskhe-Javakhk region of the same name, the center of the Javakhk region (the territory of the Upper Javakhk province of the Gugark province of the historical Greater Armenia).

According to the official data of 2014, the population of the city is 8295, of which 93.8% are Armenians. The name is literally translated as New City (Georgian: akhal - new, Armenian: kalak - city).

Akhalkalak has been mentioned since the end of the 12th century, among other provinces of Northern Armenia, in connection with the transfer from the Georgian Queen Tamar to the Armenian Zakarians as a heritage estate. In 1637 the city was captured by the Ottoman Turks, and in 1829 it came under the rule of the Russian Empire. In 1830s thousands of Armenians who migrated from Erzurum moved to Akhalkalak city and province, and founded 50 villages.

Due to the Turkish invasion in the South Caucasus in May 1918, the vast majority of the population of the city and the province emigrated to the forests of Bakurian and the region of Dsalka. 35-40 thousand of the 80,000 Armenians who emigrated died.

After the sovietization of Armenia and Georgia, on November 6, 1921, an agreement was signed between the two Soviet republics, according to which Akhalkalak and the province were transferred to Georgia.

The essence of the Armenian Question, both in the past and present times has been the same. It is the establishment of political and territorial conditions for the Armenian people which will enable them to live in their Motherland in Armenian Highland freely and independently. There is only one solution for the Armenian Question which is to restore the complete Armenian statehood on a sensible territorial space where the secure existence of the ancient Armenian civilization will be guaranteed.

In other words, the Armenian Question is the question of the security of the Armenian people which demands to ensure the security of two conditions. First, the establishment of a strong Armenia and second, fixing the needed territorial guarantee for the security and vitality of the created statehood. Actually, the existence of one condition without the other is impossible. Moreover, neither the Armenian Government is able to survive on the former Soviet and Socialist Republic with 29,800 sq.km (vulnerable and defenseless for the “aggression zooming” borders), nor the Armenian people can exist in the absence of Armenian government generally.

The survival of the Armenian nation and her civilization has been endangered in the past and present times, since the territorial problem is still unsolved. After the Soviet era, Armenia was again confronted with the same situation of “to be or not to be”. Simultaneously, with the collapse of the Soviet Union and the obvious expansionist aspirations of Turkey and her younger ally, “Azerbaijan” with their ferocious acts have endangered the physical existence of Armenia once again. During the last twenty years of the experience of independence, Armenia did prove that she had managed to survive on a 42000 sq. Km. of natural and definite borders only because of the existence of inspection on the mentioned territory, in spite of the added emancipated lands of the Republics of Armenia and Artsakh. This is the minimum piece of land which provides the security of Armenia, without which the statehood may not be able to survive at all.

To emphasize, this is the minimum land piece which provides the security of Armenia against regional and international powers and their political, martial, psychological and geopolitical clashes of interests and interactions. At the same time, it should not be excluded that the danger of the aggressive policy of Turkey and “Azerbaijan” and unleashing danger of the possible war by “Azerbaijan” will force Armenians to expand the Armenian martial-political

statehood on the occupied territories of the Motherland right up to the point when the enemy will stop threatening and will reconcile with the fact that Armenians should construct their statehood on their homeland¹.

So to solve the Armenian Question and guarantee the security of Armenians, it is necessary to discuss and solve the following thesis:

A. - The territorial integrity of Armenian historical homeland:

- The Republic of Armenia
- The Republic of Artsakh (mountainous and fields)
- Nakhijevan
- Akhalkalak
- The Western Armenia (according to the Treaty of Sevres)

B. - Establishment of Armenian national united statehood, the axis of which is the Republic of Armenia.

C. - Recognition of Armenian Genocide by Turkey and the issue of compensation.

D. - Recognition of the human rights of the hidden (disguised) Armenians living in Western Armenia and Anatolia.

E. - The return of Armenians of Diaspora to the Motherland.

F. - The handing over of the remaining of cultural heritage belonging to the Armenians, existing on Armenian territories outside of the Republic to the real owners and protection of them.

Until now, we have published numerous articles and books on the mentioned Armenian areas. So, in this book, we are trying to include the Armenian Javakh as an inseparable part of the Armenian Independent State.

The author will gladly accept all comments and suggestions from readers, which will be taken into account in the next edition of this book.

Edic Baghdasarian

(Ed. Germanic).

November 1st 2024.

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¹ - "Apaga" monthly, no. 33, June 2008.